Tobati language

Tobati, or **Yotafa**, is an Austronesian language spoken in Jayapura Bay in Papua province, Indonesia. It was once thought to be a Papuan language.[1] Notably, Tobati displays a very rare object-subject-verb word order.[3]

Phonology

Tobati	
Yotafa	
Native to	Indonesia
Region	Papua
Native speakers	100 (2007)[1]
Language family	Austronesian - Malayo-Polynesian - Oceanic - Western Oceanic - North New Guinea - Sarmi – Jayapura Bay - Jayapura Bay **Tobati**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	`tti`
Glottolog	`toba1266 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/toba1266)`[2]

Consonants

		Labial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar
Nasal		m			n	ɲ	N†
Stop	voiceless				t	c	k
	voiced	b		d		d͡ʒ	
Fricative	voiceless	ɸ	f		s	ʃ	h‡
	voiced						ɣ~ɰ
Approximant		w				j	
Rhotic					r		

† Before a vowel realized as [ŋg], otherwise nasalizes the preceding vowel.[3]
‡ Displays free variation as [h~ɦ~x~ɣ].

/f/ also shows allophony as [p]. However, it does not behave as a stop (see below).

Tobati has a five-vowel system of /a e i o u/, realized as /a ɛ i ɔ ʊ/ in closed syllables.

Phonotactics

Tobati permits 3 consonants in the onset, and at most a single consonant or a nasal-stop cluster in the coda.

Nasal-stop clusters only permit a nasal and a stop of the same PoA. For the /nd/ sequence, /n/ becomes dental [n̪]. Neither the bilabial, consisting of /b/ and the /f/ allophone [p], nor palatal nasal-stop clusters distinguish voice (i.e. they are [pm~bm] and [cɲ~d͡ʒɲ] respectively). The /Nk/ sequence voices to [ŋg].[3]

References

1. Tobati (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/tti/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Tobati" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/toba1266). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Crowley, Terry; Lynch, John; Ross, Malcolm (2002). The Oceanic Languages. London and New York: Routledge. pp. 186-88

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